

Higgs Beach Park Planning Committee Meeting / Minutes

4/22/09 Gato Building 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Present: Commissioners Heather Carruthers and Teri Johnston, Hank Dean, Maggie Gutierrez, Michael Behmke, Dent Pierce, Richard Hatch, SuAnne Kitchar, Norma Jean Sawyer, Roger McVeigh, Sam Trophia, Richard Klitenick, Rosi Ware, Eric Holowacz, Sam Holland, Jane Dawkins, Jodell Roberts (for Craig Company), John King, Candace Whitaker, Sofia Artola, Carol Schreck (Aide to Commissioner Carruthers)

I. Introductions

II. Agenda approved

III. Roger McVeigh nominated, Richard Klitenick seconded the nomination for Michael Behmke as Committee Leader. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Mission of Committee

The Friends of Higgs Beach mission statement adopted as the mission statement for the Planning Committee.

The Mission of the Friends of Higgs Beach is to revitalize and maintain Clarence Higgs Beach Park to ensure that it is a safe, welcoming recreational environment for all.

Achieved through 4 actions:

1. Creating a master plan and directing its implementation in conjunction with Monroe County and the City of Key West
2. Spearheading all funding efforts for the revitalization of the beach and park
3. Creating a revenue stream in partnership with local governments to financially support long-term upkeep, improvement and accessibility of the park, including adjacent neighborhoods and near-shore waters
4. Ensuring that all park-related projects and uses are consonant with the character of Key West and the surrounding neighborhood.

V. Time Line

April 30, 2009	Planning Committee Follow-up Meeting
May 1 week	General / Working Group meeting to review proposed projects for Special Beach Fund
May 6, 2009	DAC 1 agenda deadline
May 20, 2009	DAC 1 meeting (Special Beach Fund)
June 2, 2009	DAC 1 Capital / Bricks and Mortar application deadline *

* Commissioner Carruthers brought forward the possibility of capital improvement funding through the Tourist Development Council's Bricks and Mortar application and funding process. Monies available may be as high as \$1.5m this year. This funding source, which funds projects that encourage tourism and enhances the visitor's experience, presents a multi-

year funding opportunity for Higgs Beach Park related brick and mortar projects (i.e. family bathroom on playground/dog park side of park, lighting, etc.)

VI. Master Plan

Special Beach Fund (DAC 1 funds \$485,000 – available now):

The current state opinion is that the Special Beach Funds may only be used for beach-related uses. There is controversy as to whether that would include that portion of Higgs Beach Park that is across Atlantic Blvd. The committee unanimously agreed that rather than contest this definition it would be in the best interest of the community and park if the Special Beach Funds supported projects on the “beach side” of the park. By unanimous decision, the committee directed county public works to move forward with designs, plans and costs for the following projects:

- Renovation of existing bathrooms \$80k+
- ADA compliance issues (based on draft MBI-K2M report)
- Master plan for entire Higgs Beach Park renovation \$150k
- Crosswalk / Striping
- Seawall patching
- Call boxes
- Signage
- Lighting for tiki huts and pavilions (solar)
- Recycle center

Public Works will present projects proposal to the Higgs Beach Planning Committee at the next meeting and ultimately present to DAC 1 at the May 20, 2009 meeting.

Capital Improvement Projects (projects to be considered, in no order and not complete)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Playground | • Fencing |
| • 2 nd bathroom (family) | • Landscaping |
| • Seawall | • Outfall filters |
| • Storm water drainage | • Additional volleyball court |
| • Athletic trail | • Lockers |
| • Tiki hut for yoga, meditation | • Lighting |

VII. Friends of Higgs Beach / non-profit (Richard Klitenick and Maggie Gutierrez)

Friends of Higgs Beach will be the clearing house for capital project fundraising

- Articles of Incorporation in process
- Need to determine Board of Directors – suggested number is 9.
- Officers to be determined at the next Planning Committee meeting

VIII. Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 30, 2009

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Place: Harvey Government Center / Truman Avenue / BOCC Room / 2nd floor